

In the Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A harvesting implement for harvesting of stalk-like plants, with at least one intake arrangement for taking up plants located on a field and a stalk divider arranged ahead of the intake arrangement in a forward direction, the stalk divider is supported in bearings and [is free to move] can be deflected sideways during harvesting relative to the intake arrangement [in] and transverse to the forward direction.

Claim 2. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 1 wherein the stalk divider is connected with the harvesting implement so as to pivot about an approximately horizontal axis.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 2 wherein the stalk divider is connected with the harvesting implement so as to slide transversely sideways relative to the forward direction.

Claim 4. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 1 wherein the stalk divider is connected with the harvesting implement so as to slide transversely to the forward direction.

Claim 5. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 2 wherein the stalk divider is connected to the intake arrangement pendulously with a parallelogram guidance linkage.

Claim 6. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 5 wherein the stalk divider is connected with the intake arrangement so as to float freely relative to the intake arrangement.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 5 wherein the stalk divider can be positively rotated about its longitudinal axis extending in the forward direction.

Claim 8. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 7 wherein the stalk

divider is equipped with conveying elements projecting from its surface.

Claim 9. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 8 wherein the conveying elements on the stalk divider are helical.

Claim 10. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 9 wherein the stalk divider is positively rotated by a drive extending from the intake arrangement.

Claim 11. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 1 wherein the stalk divider is provided with a circular cross section.

Claim 12. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 11 wherein the stalk divider has a conical shape.

Claim 13. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 11 wherein the stalk divider is composed of several stepped sections arranged behind each other in the forward direction.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 13 wherein each section has a forward region and a rear region, the forward region is provided with a smaller radial dimension than the rear region of the section.

Claim 15. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 14 wherein the forward region of a first section is provided with a smaller radial dimension than the forward region of a second section located behind the first section.

Claim 16. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 1 wherein the intake arrangement is a picking arrangement.

Claim 17. (original) The harvesting implement as defined by claim 16 wherein the intake arrangement comprises a gathering element driven so as to rotate about the vertical axis with fingers projecting outward for the grasping of the plants, the gathering element is arranged to move plant stalks into and along a plucking gap.